

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 973 without my signature.

I agree with the author and sponsor that health care options need to be affordable and accessible to the people of California. My comprehensive health care reform proposal would have created many of those options for people of all income levels. Unfortunately, this bill represents an extremely small provision of a much larger proposal.

I cannot support a one-sided, piecemeal approach to health care reform. Californians deserve a financially sustainable and comprehensive solution that promotes prevention, shares responsibility, covers everyone, contains cost and keeps our hospitals open.

The people of California demand more than incremental solutions to this problem. I would invite the Legislature to once again engage in the debate over a comprehensive solution that fixes our broken health care system.

For this reason, I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger